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A GRANDFATHER, who died while going to help at the scene of a crash, was hit by a reversing van whose driver was also assisting, an inquest opening has heard.

Driving instructor Geoff Smith, 59, was hit on the A4260 near Steeple Aston on December 30.

The grandfather-of-six, from Bloxham, died at the John Radcliffe Hospital after suffering multiple injuries.

Senior Oxford coroner Darren Salter told Tuesday's inquest: "He was walking on the hard shoulder and was hit by a vehicle that was reversing up the dual carriageway, also to assist."

Full story: Page 2

The site of accident on the A4260 Oxford Road



Masterplan picks out canalside and shopping opportunities

OPENING UP TO GROWTH

PEOPLE are being called on to have their say on the future of the town after a new "masterplan" was approved by councillors.

The plan aims to map out future building developments in Banbury, in a bid to help build the area's economy, reduce congestion coming into and out the town, and to create a more attractive town centre.

The 56-page draft report includes initiatives to regenerate underused areas such as the canalside, open up vacant shops with temporary uses, and improve bus services into Banbury.

It also looks at how to provide more jobs for local people and to reduce traffic jams leading into the town centre.

Now that the draft report has been approved by councillors, who rubber-stamped it on Monday night, there will be an opportunity for the public and businesses to have their say.

Banbury MP Victoria Prentis praised the district council for looking to adopt the plan and called on people to make their views clear when the consultation starts.

She said: "Banbury is a fantastic place to live and I hope any masterplan document will focus on making sure that continues."

"We need to ensure our roads can

Kieran Davey
kdavey@nqo.com

meet the needs of users in our growing town. It is vital that we make sure our roads stay moving and residents and businesses are able to go about their business, while protecting routes for our emergency services to reach us when needed.

"I think it is important that we plan for safe cycle and pedestrian routes into the town centre and train station. More green space is also key; we must not lose that market town character of Banbury."

The consultation will take place over a six-week period, but it has not been announced when this will start.

Mrs Prentis added: "I would encourage everyone to make their views known. The masterplan will provide a strong foundation for the future of the town and I think it is really important that those who live and work here are a part of that."

The masterplan forms part of the Cherwell Local Plan Part 1, which was adopted in July last year and maps out future building projects for the district.

At the meeting, councillor Michael Gibbard said: "The masterplan pro-

vides more detail on the overall growth of the town more than what the local plan does."

Richard Singlehurst, owner of menswear shop Union Clothing in High Street, said: "The public need to have their say, because ultimately they are the people that come into the town and spend money."

"The councillors need to lobby them and find out what they really want from the town centre, so they can attract them into it."

"I know what my customers want, but it is up to the councillors to make sure they know this as well."

The authority said details of how people could respond to the consultation would be issued soon.

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Alerts over river levels

OFFICIALS have this week been monitoring river levels closely as eight flood alerts remained in place across Oxfordshire.

The Environment Agency issued flood alerts for the River Evenlode in west of the county and for the Langford and Wendlebury Brooks near Bicester on Sunday, with weather forecasts predicting heavy rain later in the week.

Those warnings were in addition to six other alerts already in place, covering the River Thames, the Windrush, the Cherwell, the Thame and the Leach.

An Environment Agency spokesman said: "Rivers have risen in response to rain and water may flow into low lying areas. No property flooding is expected."

Although it was not expected that alerts would escalate to warnings, the spokesman added, the condition of the Upper Thames would remain sensitive and was being "constantly monitored".

The official warnings came after heavy rain fell over the weekend, with strong coastal winds also sweeping north-eastwards across the county.

The county was not expected to experience much of an improvement this week, meteorologists added.

At the beginning of the week wind and thundery rain was forecast by the Met Office for Monday and Tuesday, with only a brief reprieve on Wednesday, ahead of "very wet and windy" conditions expected today.

For warnings, see <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/>

Families' tributes to pair following road tragedies

Police carrying out investigations into incidents after separate crashes claim the lives of two men over New Year period

Matt Oliver & Keeley Rodgers
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TWO Oxfordshire families have been left devastated after road crashes claimed the lives of their loved ones over the New Year period.

Tributes have been paid to Geoff Smith, 59, from Bloxham and 52-year-old Tony Woods, from Marcham.

Driving instructor Mr Smith died on December 30 after he was hit by a reversing Ford Transit Tipper van at about 8am.

It happened as he was walking towards an overturned Fiat Punto on the A4260 Oxford Road, near Steeple Aston.

The grandfather-of-six was taken to the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford but died from his injuries. The driver of the Fiat Punto suffered minor injuries.

Mr Smith's daughter Helen Adkins described him as a "soft, loving, funny man" who loved his job.

She said: "My dad was an extremely loving husband and best friend to my mother Jen.

"He was an idol to my brother and I as our father, and the best father-in-law you could have ever have wished for.

"There will never be another like my dad. He was the source and our guide to life. He shall forever be missed by all."

Rachel Prew said Mr Smith was a keyboard player in a band called Legend with her late father. She said he offered to teach her to drive as a way of paying tribute to her dad.

Ms Prew described him as "funny, laid back and kind-hearted", adding: "The last thing I did when I saw him was give him a hug, and I am so glad I did."

Thames Valley Police is investigating the crash. A spokesman for the force said a 55-year-old man from Bicester was arrested on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving and was released on bail until March 30.

It was followed by a separate incident just a day later on December 31, at about 9.40pm.

Decorator and construction foreman Mr Woods sustained severe injuries when he was involved in a collision with a blue Ford Fiesta as he cycled home along the A415 Marcham Road, between the A34 and Marcham.

The father-of-three was taken to the



Geoff Smith had given driving tuition since 2009 with RED, but was going it alone

John Radcliffe Hospital with severe injuries but died the next day.

Mr Woods, who grew up in London but had lived in Marcham for a year, had been celebrating at the White Horse pub in Abingdon but was returning home to join his mother, Daphne Ellender.

Mrs Ellender, 72, said he was "a loving son, loving brother and loving father" and had been looking forward to moving into a new home in Abingdon on Tuesday this week.

She said: "My heart has been ripped into a million pieces.

"Anthony was a kind and good-natured person who worked hard and supported his family and his children.

"When we did not hear again from him after he left the pub, we thought nothing

of it. But the next thing we knew there were sirens outside the house.

"The way this has happened is tragic and he will be greatly missed by all of us."

Several floral tributes have been placed at the site of the crash. A police spokeswoman said no arrests had been made.

Officer Julie Hunt, of the serious collision investigation unit in Bicester, urged witnesses to come forward.

She added: "I would also urge anyone travelling between Abingdon and Marcham on the A415 Marcham Road in either direction between about 9.25pm and 9.45pm on New Year's Eve, who saw a cyclist, to come forward."

Anyone with information can contact police on the 101 number.

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Nephew Harry Woods, 19, brother Peter Woods, 51, and mother Daphne Ellender, 72, with a tribute to cyclist Tony Woods that they have created since his death



Anthony Woods, who died on the A415



Leslie Underdown, a bellringer at St Mary the Virgin in Cropredy for more than 70 years, getting to grips with the bell ropes at the village church

Award honours stalwart's work

Bellringer and member of legion claims medal due to his community service

Kieran Davey
kdavey@nqo.com

A CROPREDY man, who has rung the church bells for more than 70 years, has been awarded a British Empire Medal (BEM) for services to the community.

Leslie Underdown was also nominated for his work with the Royal British Legion, having been a member of the Cropredy branch since 1952.

He has helped to support ex-service personnel and their families in the community.

The 85-year-old will be given the BEM, which is granted in recognition of outstanding civil or military service.

Mr Underdown, who lives in Cropredy with his wife Sara, 64, said: "I was very surprised to hear about the award, but also a little bit embarrassed. I'm the type of person who usually likes to stay behind the scenes."

Having first moved to the village in 1935, Mr Underdown has taken on a number of leadership roles with local organisations, becoming a well-known pillar of the community in the process.

After joining the legion, he has been a committee member, the branch secretary and is currently the local president.

The former insurance broker, who has two sons – Graham, 61, and Martin, 57 – from a previous marriage, said: "We used to have a really strong branch, with up to 120 members, but unfortunately it now seems to be down to an average of 30.

"Helping people though is the way we like to do things, if

anyone in the community needs supporting then we go to them and try and help."

Mr Underdown started ringing the church bells at St Mary the Virgin Church in Cropredy during the Second World War after being encouraged to replace those who were serving in the conflict. He was also a member of the parochial church council and volunteered as a sidesman.

Following the war he helped set up the Cropredy Boat Club, which aimed to provide leisure activities for children at danger of getting in trouble with the police.

Mr Underdown said: "I've had a lot of help from my family and people in the community over the years, and I've always been prepared to dig in."

He said his favourite moment was visiting the Royal Albert Hall in London twice as a standard bearer for the legion, for their festival of remembrance.

Crash couple named

BANBURY: A couple from the town who died in a fatal crash in Gloucestershire on Boxing Day have been named as Robert and Lesley Forester.

The married pair, aged 67 and 58 respectively, were in a Kia that was involved in a collision with a car and horsebox at about 2.30pm, near Stow on the Wold. They were pronounced dead at the scene. Police said their next of kin had been informed. An inquest will be held on June 7.

Free parking scheme

N OXON: There are just a few days left for shoppers to make the most of free parking in Cherwell District Council-owned car parks.

Over the festive period, the council has put on free parking from 3pm, to encourage footfall in Banbury and Bicester town centres.

The free parking initiative will finish on Sunday and from next Monday will return to the normal 8am to 7pm charges.

Cherwell District Council deputy leader George Reynolds said: "There is still time to take advantage of the free from three offer to snap up bargains in the January sales."

Library account app

OXON: A new mobile phone app for people to keep track of their accounts with libraries across Oxfordshire has been launched.

The Oxfordshire Libraries app, created by Oxfordshire County Council, allows people to manage their accounts, search the catalogues and renew and reserve books.

People who own devices with a front-facing, auto-focus camera can also scan bar codes.

The app is free to download at the App Store and Google Play.

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

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that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service the Oxford, Banbury & Abingdon areas and James is finding that his approach is a major factor

in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for,

which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

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Hear about hospitals' finances and care

PATIENTS can hear how the county's hospitals are performing during a public board meeting this month. Oxford University Hospitals

Foundation Trust bosses will discuss finances and care at the Horton General, John Radcliffe, and Churchill hospitals and the Nuffield

Orthopaedic Centre.

The meeting, being held in the meeting rooms at the Churchill Hospital, Oxford, begins at 10am on January 13.

Centres giving aid to families

CHILDREN'S centres provide a crucial lifeline to families from disadvantaged areas, according to an Oxford University study.

The research claims centres across England have the power to boost vulnerable families.

It comes as a consultation, launched by Oxfordshire County Council, looks at the possible closure of 44 children's centres and seven early intervention hubs to save £8 million. If plans are approved, eight Children and Family Centres would replace them.

The study used interviews with parents and staff from centres across England and studies of finances and staffing from 2011 to 2012. It found well-funded centres were successful in boosting children's social skills and improving family functioning.

The most disadvantaged families were using children's centres for an average of five months. That is longer than those that were less in need.

Professor Kathy Sylva, from the university's department of education, said: "Preventative work with families can head off more serious problems that could otherwise put them on the lists of social welfare agencies."

Farming conference plans to change way we eat with an agricultural revolution



Colin Tudge and wife Ruth West, organisers of the Real Farming Conference being held at Oxford Town Hall today

AN AGRICULTURAL revolution to change the way we eat is being plotted in Oxfordshire this week.

Farmers and agricultural experts were descending on Oxford Town Hall today for the 2016 Oxford Real Farming Conference. Supporters say large-scale industrial agriculture is ruining land, wiping out wildlife, causing flooding and not producing the best food.

Organiser Colin Tudge said corporate agriculture tried to farm the largest possible areas with scant regard for the environment. An increasing number of environment experts have said cutting down trees to farm large areas increases flooding, by reducing the land's ability to hold and absorb water.

In December, a report by Butterfly Conservation revealed that 76 per cent of the UK's species had declined in the last 40 years, blaming intensification of agriculture.

Mr Tudge, of Wolvercote, founded the conference in 2009 with wife Ruth and Graham Harvey, agricultural advisor to *The Archers*.

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Fire crews blaze new trail in roles

Training will build on job description to address a range of broader issues

Matt Oliver
moliver@nqo.com

FIREFIGHTERS in Oxfordshire are to be trained to spot signs of fraud, health problems, abuse and even religious radicalism in people's homes.

In an expansion of their role, crews will be given training to spot early signs of problems that can be referred to other agencies like social services, the police and trading standards.

A new agreement with the NHS will also see them installing safety measures in homes and could lead to visits about health check-ups.

The move follows a landmark deal reached by Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service and South Central Ambulance Service, which has seen firefighters sent to 999 medical emergencies.

Fire chiefs said it was part of a shift from only conducting fire prevention campaigns – which have led to the number of fire callouts dropping by 40 per cent over the past decade – to encouraging people to be more healthy and prevent unexpected trips to hospital.

Thames Valley collaboration manager David Heycock said: "The vision for the fire service now is one that has a much wider focus than it did previously."



Union chairman Mark Ames

"We will be continuing our work in fire prevention, but this will let us use our methods to help in other areas as well."

Fire Brigades Union Oxfordshire chairman Mark Ames said the role of firefighters was "ever-changing", but new responsibilities "need to be recognised".

He added: "We are not against additions to the role of firefighters, but the focus must remain on firefighting and rescue operations that we are funded to do."

"It needs to be done properly and we must make sure it does not have a detrimental impact on the safety of people in Ox-

fordshire."

At present firefighters carry out home visits to vulnerable people who may be at greater risk of having a fire in their homes.

But Mr Heycock said staff could now also do other checks while they were there, to help partner authorities across Oxfordshire that are trying to save cash by becoming more efficient.

This could include installing handrails for elderly people to help prevent falls, referring families to social services, and checking if people have had jobs for illnesses or recent check-ups with their GP.

In particular fire chiefs hope conversations with firefighters could help "nudge" people towards services that can help with addictions or obesity.

The idea has been backed by NHS England, which said firefighters could help reduce the number of people being sent to hospital.

Mr Heycock said fire crews in Oxfordshire would receive extra training for the so-called "Safe and Well" checks at the turn of the year.

He added: "Our work with public health is on the increase. We have a reputation – and a brand – that gives us good access to the public and people trust us."

"We want to use that to help them live healthier and more fulfilling lives."

Fire crews are also being trained to spot signs of fraud or scams targeted at elderly people while visiting their homes.

HEAD INTO THE WEST WITH TARANTINO
Leisure – page 13





Clare Primrose
as Cinderella
and Adrian
Banks as
Gideon

Company's modern take on tale

SELFIE-obsessed ugly sisters and a Converse-wearing Cinderella will bring the classic love story into the 21st century for a local performance.

The play will be performed by Cherwell Theatre Company, based in Banbury and featuring professional and amateur performers.

Cinderella will be their 11th festive production, with the aim of bringing an original presentation to the much-loved

fairytale. CTC artistic director Tristan Pate, who has led the group since their performance of Robin Hood last year, said: "After 10 incredibly popular festive productions, we are putting our enthusiasm this year into what is arguably one of the most beloved pantomimes.

"There's lots of live musicianship from our talented cast as well, a first for us as we strive to make our shows more

ambitious year by year.

"Our usual brand of slapstick comedy will of course remain, embellished with a heavy dose of magic."

The company holds regular drama workshops in Banbury for aspiring actors, who are at least 14 years old.

Performances will be held at the Wykham Theatre at Banbury Academy, in Ruskin Road, from Friday until January 17.

Millions 'lost' on unused software

£2.6m could be saved if county changes the way it buys program licences

Matt Oliver
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MILLIONS of pounds being spent on "unnecessary" computer software by Oxfordshire County Council managers could be saved, it has been claimed.

According to a study by the Business Software Centre and the University of Portsmouth, the local authority currently has no way of measuring whether it uses software it has paid for.

A Freedom of Information request revealed it spent £3.6m on software licences last year with 4,200 computer users, more than Cambridgeshire and Warwickshire county councils which spent about £1m on as many as 5,400 users.

Phil Hames, director at the Business Software Centre, said Oxfordshire County Council could save up to £2.6m if it changed the way it bought licences.

The council is currently wrestling with potential savings of up to £70m due to fresh cuts to its budget by the Government.

But the study's findings were rejected by the county council, which claimed the study figures



only gave "a partial story".

Mr Hames said: "Oxfordshire County Council is currently cutting public services and claiming it has no choice.

"The research indicates that it spends significantly more on software licensing than similar organisations, yet it refuses to investigate this and measure its levels of licensing efficiency.

"We are talking about what happens to council taxpayers' money and I would like to see a proper investigation.

"This is clearly a council that does not have appropriate methods of measuring and controlling their software licensing efficiency."

The director added that he wrote to the local authority's finance chief, Lorna Baxter, in

October and to council leader Ian Hudspeth in November but received no reply.

His company also contacted other council staff on three occasions but its calls were not returned, Mr Hames claimed.

A county council spokesman said: "The information we have supplied is based on the inclusion of software support and maintenance – which is different from the actual software licence.

"In many cases, local authorities will own a 'perpetual' licence for software which is then 'supported and maintained' on an annual basis rather than purchased.

"The significant variance [with other councils] could be one of many reasons.

"Like many public services, very few of the more than 200 business systems that are used by the council are licensed on an annual basis.

"We have provided costs for services over and above what was requested which has probably 'skewed the figures'.

"Our statistical neighbours may also have chosen to license their software estates and component ICT services in an alternative way which has resulted in an incomplete and confusing picture. If Mr Hames and his organisation believe that they can save us money on our licensing, then we would be very happy to talk to them."

CLUB MARK ANNIVERSARY

BANBURY: Banbury United will reunite former players on January 16, to mark the club's 50th anniversary.

Old players can reminisce when today's side plays Larkhall Athletic at the Spencer Stadium. They will get free entry and a pre-match buffet at 2.15pm.

For more information, ex-players and managers can call on 07944 671214.

DECREASE IN WASTE RATES

OXON: The amount of household waste reused, recycled, or composted has fallen again, according to new figures.

The county council reported a slight drop in the second quarter of the financial year, from 60 per cent in the first quarter to 58 per cent.

The authority's target is 59 per cent and last year it recorded 61 per cent overall.

YOUR SAY ON SCHOOLS

OXON: Rules for school admissions for 2017/18 are open for consultation.

People can have their say on policies for admissions to infant, primary, junior and secondary schools until January 31. The rules will be published by March 15.

For details, including how to respond, visit consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk.

HEATING HEALTH WARNING

OXON: People struggling with fuel bills are being asked to keep their heating on this winter.

Oil heating industry trade association OFTEC said turning down a thermostat in cold weather could lead to health problems. Temperatures in a main room should be at least 21C, it advises, but turn off radiators in unused rooms.

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Congregation taking a break to build homes

THE congregation of a Banbury church will take a break from the traditional by moving to a more brightly-coloured base this year.

Work will begin this month to build 11 new two-bedroom and three-bedroom homes on the site of the Fairway Methodist Church, in the Fairway.

As part of the project, organised through the district council's Build! project, a new purpose-built, two-storey church is planned for the site, made of multi-coloured bricks.

The rainbow of colours for the building have been picked by members of the congregation.

Cherwell District Council's lead member for housing, John Donaldson, said: "A key aspect of our build! project is to provide affordable housing opportunities for local residents and we will always strive to do this on brownfield and redundant sites.

"In this case, although the church building itself was being used by the congregation, a lot of the surrounding land was going to waste.

"The church was rundown, expensive to manage and in need of repair.

"Although the church will lose its existing building, it will be replaced with a modern, purpose-built property that will be more energy efficient and suitable to the needs of the congregation."

The new homes will be shared-ownership, with discounts available for residents who help finish interior work including decorating and installing kitchen units.



This year's Oxfordshire Gangshow rehearsals are well under way at the Edward Feild School, with its cast of about 150 Scouts and Brownies from groups right across the county gathering to make sure their performances are ready for their 2016 production at the Radley College Theatre

Gang's all here for musical fun

February performances at college theatre by 160 youngsters from county

Naomi Herring
nherring@nqo.com

A WHOLE host of Scouts, Guides and Brownies have been filling the halls of Edward Feild School with song as they prepare for curtain-up.

The children are perfecting their tunes for next month's Oxfordshire Gang Show which brings together young people from across the county for one big standout stage show.

Among those rehearsing at Edward Feild School in Kidlington on Sunday were nine-year-olds Isabelle Sutch and Megan Brooks.

Isabelle, a Standlake Brownie, said: "I really like meeting new people in the show and I am excited to perform because it is my first time.

"We have been singing lots of different songs. Some are more bumpy and then others are more graceful."

Megan, from 5th Abingdon Brownies, added: "Rehearsals are going great and all the direc-



Isabelle Sutch, nine, of Standlake Brownies, and Megan Brooks, nine, of the 5th Abingdon Brownies are among the gathered performers

tors are putting in a lot of their time to help us bring in a fantastic show.

"It has been really enjoyable and, like Isabelle said, it is nice meeting new people and making new friends."

The Oxfordshire Gang Show is put on by Oxfordshire Scouting and has been running for more than 60 years.

The 150-strong group has been rehearsing for six months. The work will culminate in a series of performances at the Radley College Theatre.

Shows will be performed throughout the week starting from Monday, February 15, until Saturday, February 20.

Tickets can be bought at oxfordgangshow.org.uk/box-office



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Tributes paid to former district councillor Paul

Stalwart of the community O'Sullivan also served as councillor for 20 years

Megan Archer
marcher@nqo.com

FORMER Cherwell district councillor, family man and McVitie's biscuits salesman Paul O'Sullivan has died, age 87.

The great-grandfather, who had lived in Steeple Aston since 1935, was a member of Cherwell District Council for 20 years and was also appointed champion for older people in 2012, helping to prevent loneliness and isolation in Cherwell's older residents.

A keen footballer, he also enjoyed making wine and planting trees and daffodils around the community.

He has been described by his friends and colleagues as "trustworthy", "humble" and as a man with "true community spirit".

Mr O'Sullivan was born December 7, 1927, in Oxford.

His father was from Birmingham and his mother from Cork and he had two younger brothers; David and Eugene. The family lived in Kidlington for five years



Village stalwart Paul O'Sullivan

before moving to Steeple Aston.

Mr O'Sullivan attended Dr Radcliffe's School in Steeple Aston until he was 15, then joined the Royal Air Force at the age of 18, where he worked on air frames and in the maintenance manager's office at Upper Heyford. He also worked on fixing Spitfire engines.

After that he worked for Harris's Bacon factory in Oxford, but moved on to McVitie's where he stayed for more than 25 years, becoming their top salesman and often winning holidays abroad.

He and Dorothy Palmer married in June 1957, at Steeple Aston Church, a partnership that until her death in 2002. They had three



Military veteran Colonel Tim May

children; Sonia, Karen and Desmond.

After early retirement from McVitie's, Mr O'Sullivan became a part-time security guard at Kidlington airport, now London Oxford.

From 1994 to 2014 he was a Conservative councillor for Cherwell, representing Deddington.

He was appointed a member champion for older people in 2012 and kept the role until he retired as a councillor in 2014.

He was a keen footballer and played for Steeple Aston. He also enjoyed darts. In 1973, he became a member of the village tree committee which planted an avenue



County councillor Don Seale

of silver limes and later silver birches.

He died on December 3 and a funeral service was held on December 21 at Steeple Aston Church.

Oxfordshire County Council leader Ian Hudspeth has paid tribute to another councillor, who died on Christmas morning.

Mr Hudspeth called former council chairman Don Seale – a county councillor for more than 15 years – a "practical" and "intelligent" man.

He said: "Don had a distinguished career in the military before entering political life. He was a practical, intelligent man, with an abundance of common sense."

Reserve officer with outstanding military passion

COLONEL Tim May, pictured left, a dedicated serviceman and lifelong member of the Oxfordshire Yeomanry, has died at the age of 85.

Described as one of the most outstanding Army Reserve officers of his generation, Colonel May served with the Royal Artillery in Egypt.

He also served with the Banbury Battery of 299 Field Regiment from 1951 to 1967, famously commanding the QOOH detachment that led the gun carriage at Sir Winston Churchill's state funeral.

He died peacefully at his home in Ickford on December 10.

Colonel May followed his father into Oxford's Dragon School; at 13 he was six feet tall and excelling at rugby.

He transferred to Magdalen College School and, also like his father, became an accomplished singer and actor.

He also excelled in the military. He started in the School Joint Training Corps and went on to join the Oxford University Officer Training Corps.

The National Service took Colonel May to Mons Officer School and then on to the Royal Artillery, posted in Egypt.

On his return he took up a career in insurance and became a senior executive at Alexander and Alexander in London.

While insurance was his day job, military life was Colonel May's passion.

For 14 years he was deputy commander and Colonel TA in the South East district and became the first chairman of the Oxfordshire Yeomanry Trust in 1997, creating a sense of pride in the Reserves.

He leaves widow Ella, son Matthew, daughter Sophie and grandson Harry.

A funeral was held on December 22 at St Nicholas Parish Church, Ickford.

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Firm scoops top customer service prize

Telecoms business is hailed for treating all its clients like people

Megan Archer
marcher@nqo.com

A FIRM in Chipping Norton is celebrating after winning an award for the way it treats its customers.

The Phone Co-op won the Best Consumer Facing award at the UK Social Enterprise Awards.

The awards recognise achievements by social enterprises – businesses that reinvest their profits for good.

The Phone Co-op, which has its head office in the town, is a company that is financed by its members.

It is the UK's only telecommunications co-operative, buying broadband and landline on behalf of its customers, and won the award thanks to its "simple and effective" way of taking customer queries.

Head of operations Craig Lumsden said the company existed to serve their 12,000 members.

He said: "We are owned by our members. They can invest anything from £1 to £100,000 in the company – the average they invest is £4,000.

"We work on their behalf to buy services such as landline and broadband.

"We get the power of the people pulling together to work with the network suppliers.

"Most people have a pretty poor experience with call centres. We are unique in the way we tell people just to phone us up. You get an



Pat Moral holds the award as the Phone Co-op team celebrate the firm's success as a social enterprise

actual person, from the UK, on the other end – it's a personal service and connection.

"So instead of having to go through 14 different options and then getting someone in the Philippines or somewhere, our customers get someone here."

Mr Lumsden added that the company helped 3,000 business customers and 30,000 residents across the UK, from their base in Chipping Norton.

The group was praised for focussing so hard on contributing to the com-

munity of the town, by supporting the growth and development of other social enterprises.

Social Enterprise UK's chief executive Peter Holbrook said: "Social enterprises are needed more than ever to tackle the social and environmental problems facing Britain.

"Every year the awards are a celebration of the social enterprise sector, but this year was truly remarkable. It was the largest awards we've hosted to date with more than 400 guests in attendance."

Spruce tree recycling collections getting under way across county

CHRISTMAS trees can be left out for collection by Cherwell District Council, which wants festive spruces to be put into households' brown bins.

And people in Oxford will also be able to leave their Christmas trees outside on the kerb to be recycled this year.

In new changes for this year, council workers will pick up trees as part of regular bin collections rather than people

having to take their trees to recycling points.

From this week until January 22, trees – with all decorations and wiring removed – can be left next to recycling bins or taken to one of 17 collection points. They will be processed and used in parks and green spaces.

Vale of White Horse collections start on January 12, with South and West Oxfordshire from January 18.



Recycling Oxfordshire Christmas trees in 2014

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Hard-pressed commuters make voices heard on Rail Action Day

COMMUTERS took a stand against rail fare increases as it was revealed passengers in the UK are paying up to six times as much as those in other European countries.

Monday's demonstration was part of Rail Action Day and saw more than 300 leaflets handed out to passengers.

As many returned to work after the Christmas break they were met with a 1.1 per cent rise in ticket prices.

Campaign group Action for Rail also revealed that UK commuters spend up to six times as much on rail fares than other European passengers.

Jacob Jensen, 39, lives off Botley Road, Oxford, and uses the train to go to work in Leamington Spa.

The mobile software developer is originally from Denmark and said it was a

lot more expensive in this country.

He said: "It is already very expensive before the rise.

"I know it is only just over one per cent but it's still something and will add up in the longer term.

"In Denmark, where we have a public transport system, it is a lot less; it is twice as expensive here."

A small group from Oxford Trades Union Council and Oxfordshire Green Party handed out leaflets to more than 300 commuters.

Oxford Trades Union Council assistant secretary Bill MacKeith said: "Fares have increased three times as fast as wages in the past five years.

"We probably handed out close to 400 leaflets and had quite a lot of people expressing support."

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Oxfordshire Listings

Events

THURSDAY

Abingdon Young Farmers: Manor Farm, Marcham. A vibrant organisation for young people from all walks of life with an interest in the countryside. We offer a range of social and sporting events, talks and visits to local places of interest. 7.45pm. £35-£40 per year.

Christmas gift fair: Vale and Downland Museum, 19 Church St, Wantage. A vibrant selection of art and craft work including original paintings, prints, textiles, scarves, jewellery, ceramics, original art printed cushions and tote bags. 9.30am. Ends on Saturday.

FRIDAY

Emigration talk: Memorial Hall, Charlbury. Charlbury Society hosts a talk by Shaun Morley, Oxford University tutor and author, on enforced and voluntary migration from Oxfordshire in the 19th century, when thousands of agricultural labourers and craftsmen left for America, Australia, New Zealand and Brazil. Transportation, the Poor Law and the role of the Agricultural Labourers' Union are explored, along with the shipping disasters of two migrant ships when many Oxfordshire families were drowned. Refreshments 7.30pm, talk at 8pm. Non-members £3, under-18s free.

SATURDAY

Model rail exhibition: Exeter Hall, Oxford Road, Kidlington. The ScoutRail event will offer plenty to see for both model railway enthusiasts and families with children who love trains. There will be model layouts based on real and fictitious railways from around the world, plus trade stalls and refreshments. The event is held by members of Kidlington Scout Group and has been running for more than 30 years. Saturday and Sunday, 10am-4.30pm. Adults £3.50, children £1.50, other concessions £2.50. For information, visit scoutrail.org.uk

Bring and buy sale: Memorial Hall, Charlbury. The event is a chance to donate surplus Christmas gifts, specifically packaged unopened food within its date, new household goods, toiletries, books, DVDs and toys. Organisers are unable to accept clothes, jumble or mains electrical goods. The event is held by Charlbury Refugee Action to raise funds for refugee aid. Donations are welcome from 9.30am, sale from 10-12am. If you have items of warm clothing, blankets and tents that could be useful for refugees, call 01608 811378 and do not bring them to the sale.

Inside Oxford Town Hall: St Aldate's, Oxford, Tour: Tour of this Grade II*-listed building and learn about its architecture and the people who have used and enjoyed it. 11am. Adults £4.50, concessions £4 in advance, £5 on the day. 01865 252334.

Networking afternoon: The Mix Community Space, 15 Mill Street, Wantage. A networking afternoon tea for volunteers from local groups, a chance to find out what others have planned for 2016 and discuss what support would benefit your group. 3pm. Call Jo on 07768 767787 to reserve a free place.

TUESDAY

Archaeological investigations: Key Learning Centre, Oxford Castle, 44 New Road, Oxford. Learn about the archaeological findings from the Westgate Shopping Centre site in a



It is the last chance to catch the annual Chipping Norton pantomime this week. **Robin Hood's** run at The Theatre ends on Sunday. Pictured are **Scott Ellis** as Robin and **Andrew Pepper**, who plays **Connie Clatterbottom**

lecture by Ben Ford. 6pm. Free. 01865 242918.

Natural history talk: Community Centre, New Road, Woodstock. Rod d'Ayala will discuss the wildflowers of The Burren and Aran Islands for Woodstock Natural History Society. 7.30pm. Visitors £2. 01993 812004.

Soup lunch: Bicester Methodist Church, Bell Lane, Bicester. In aid of church funds. Price includes soup, bread roll, cake and tea or coffee. 12pm. £4 per person

Open mic night: Cornerstone Arts Centre. Open to musicians, poets, performance artists and storytellers. 7.30pm Contact the centre in advance on 01235 515144 or email cornerstoneopenmic@southoxon.gov.uk

Wilderness festival public meeting: The Bell Inn, Charlbury. An opportunity to have your say about this annual festival at Cornbury Park at noon and again at 6pm.

WEDNESDAY

Charlbury Art Society: Memorial Hall, Charlbury. Textile artist Amanda Hislop gives a talk entitled Land Lines, Drawn Lines, Stitch Lines about her work, illustrated with examples, samples and sketchbooks. 7.30pm.

Harwell WI: Village Hall, High Street, Harwell. There will be a 'hands-on' demonstration of Sugarcraft by Allie Gerrard, who will be decorating cupcakes with simple roses, plus an opportunity to try it. 7.30pm. Free for visitors. 01235 835649.

Oxfordshire Railway Society: Seacourt Day Centre, Seacourt Road, Botley. Laurence Waters will give an illustrated talk on the Great Western Trust's photographic archive. 7.30pm. £3.

Taj Mahal insight: Bradwell Hall, Bradwell Village, near Burford. Oliver Everett will talk about the mausoleum, built by the 17th-century Mughal emperor Shah Jahan to house the tomb of his favourite wife, Mumtaz Mahal. The lecture is hosted by Cotswold Decorative and Fine Arts Society. 10.15am. Non-members are welcome for suggested donation of £8.

Ruby Wax: Blackwell's Bookshop, 48-51 Broad Street, Oxford. The

comedienne will be talking about her latest book, *A Mindfulness Guide for the Frazzled*. 1pm. Free. Register in advance for this event on 01865 333623.

Music

THURSDAY

Lucy Kitt: The Unicorn Theatre, Checker Walk, Abingdon. Blessed with a melodic warmth, the singer-songwriter blends folk, rock and country blues and her beautifully crafted songs resonate long after the listening. Support from Three Pressed Men. Doors open at 7pm, music starts at 7.15pm. £12. Tickets from the theatre or Remade Guitars, Coxeter House, Stratton Way, Abingdon

FRIDAY

Winter concert: Wood Green School, Woodstock Road, Witney. Alison Rose, soprano, and Matthew Fletcher, piano, perform songs by Wolf, Schubert, Strauss, Purcell, Walton and Britten. This duo are award winners from the 2014 Oxford Lieder Festival Young Artist Platform scheme. Tickets available at the door or in advance from Rapture in Woolgate, Witney, or Greenway Antiques in Corn Street. 7.30pm. £12, £11 seniors, £1 under-19s. 01993 702296.

SATURDAY

Phil Beer: Tiddy Hall, Shipton Road, Ascott-under-Wychwood. One of the most popular ambassadors for acoustic roots music, Beer is a member of Show of Hands and Feast of Fiddles. As well as being a top fiddler, he also plays slide, Spanish and tenor guitar, mandocello, viola, mandolin and South American cuatro, and has rich vocals. 8pm. £12 in advance from 01993 831427 or wegottickets.com/wychwoodfolkclub, or £14 on the door.

Moonrakers: Wesley Memorial Church, New Inn Street, Oxford. The four-piece Oxfordshire acoustic folk band (harp, fiddle, stringed instruments and female/male vocals) specialise in Irish, Scottish, Welsh and English traditional and contemporary tunes and songs. 7.30pm. £10 in advance or on the door.

Supreme Queen: The Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park, Banbury. The tribute band has been playing homage to Queen since 1995. £18.50. 01295 279002.

Pete McCray: Cowley Workers' Social Club, Between Towns Road, Cowley, Oxford. The best in soul and reggae. 8.30pm. 01865 772920.

Theatre

THURSDAY

Robin Hood: The Theatre, Chipping Norton. The annual pantomime ends its run on Sunday. In the story, a band of Merry Men live free, led by their dashing young hero, righting wrongs with a quiver full of arrows and a heart full of courage. It is full of dames and damsels, swashbuckling sword-fights and sweetsies by the sack-load. £10.50-£26. 01608 642350.

SATURDAY

Cinderella: Wykham Theatre, Banbury Academy, Ruskin Road, Banbury. Cherwell Theatre Company will give an original and satirical presentation of this much-loved fairy tale. It is the 11th festive production for this inventive group, which combines professional and young actors. Performances are on Saturday (2.30pm and 7.30pm), Sunday (1.30pm), Friday, January 15 (7.30pm), Saturday, January 16 (2.30pm, 7.30pm) and Sunday, January 17 (1.30pm). Adults £10, concessions £8, family ticket £32. To book, call 0845 6801926 or visit cherwelltheatrecompany.co.uk

TUESDAY

Gangsta Granny: New Theatre, Oxford. National tour of the stage adaptation of David Walliams's popular children's book. In the story, Ben is expecting a boring time staying with Granny but what he does not know is that she has a secret and Friday nights are about to get more exciting than he could possibly imagine. Until Saturday. 7pm plus matinees. Tickets £21.50-£28.50 from atgtickets.com/oxford

Film

THURSDAY

Offside (PG): Abingdon Health and Wellbeing Centre, Audlett Drive, Abingdon. In this humorous film exposing the absurdities of Iran's authoritarian society, a group of young women decide to dress as boys in order to see their national men's team play a qualifying game for the 2006 World Cup, despite the risk of arrest and punishment. One by one they are rumbled and are taken to a detention pen, but the young military recruits guarding them find that the women put up spirited and passionate resistance. Screening by the Abingdon College and District Film Society. 7.30pm. £6. 01235 521976.

SUNDAY

The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (PG): Memorial Hall, Charlbury. Richard Gere joins an all-star ensemble cast including Judi Dench, Bill Nighy, Dev Patel and Maggie Smith returning for this sequel. In the story, Sonny (Patel) is ready to expand and gets a little help and encouragement from his resident friends. Licensed bar from 6.15pm, film starts at 7pm. £5, under-15s £3.

Russian documentaries: Rewley House, Wellington Square, Oxford. Director Vladimir Beresnev presents, in person, four of his documentary films (subtitled), including one on Oxford's twin city Perm. There will also be a question and answer session with him. 2.30pm. Free. 01869 238040.

Dance

THURSDAY

Sequence/ballroom Dancing: Woodstock Social Club, 44 Oxford Street, Woodstock. Teaching from 7.30-8.30pm, practise what you have learned until 10.30pm. £2. 01993 812094.

SATURDAY

Roughcut Ruby: Woodstock Social Club, 44 Oxford Street, Woodstock. Live band and dancing. 8.30pm. Free entry - donations welcomed.

MONDAY

Scottish country dancing: The Northcourt Centre, Northcourt Road, Abingdon. Beginners welcome. 8pm. £5 to join, then £2 each session. Call Hilary 01235 528154 for further information.

Morris winter practice: Recreation Hall, Main Street, Long Hanborough. Masons Apron Northwest welcomes new and experienced dancers to join its practices. The side has a full summer diary for local danceouts and festivals. Musicians are welcome to join its band. 8.15pm. 01993 200717.

TUESDAY

Tea dance: Woodstock Social Club, 44 Oxford Street, Woodstock. Enjoy a dance or just a chat with friendly crowd. Entrance includes tea/coffee and cake. 2pm. £2. 01993 812094.

To get an event of any kind listed here, enter the details into our easy-to-use online database at thisisoxfordshire.co.uk/events

Please add your event no later than ten days before the day of publication.

Green projects plough on

Hydro-electric and solar farm schemes race to meet deadlines for state money

Pete Hughes
phughes@nqo.com

RENEWABLE energy projects across Oxfordshire are rushing to catch the last rays of light as the sun sets on the Government's feed-in tariff.

Solar farm schemes and hydro power planners had to race to get their projects pre-accredited for subsidies before the deadline of September 30.

Now they have 12 months if they are solar, or 24 for hydro, to get their plants generating and get financial help.

In Oxfordshire, dozens of schools, firms and community groups are racing to get their schemes operational by their deadlines.

One is Sustainable Charlbury, a group of villagers who have pre-accredited their seven-hectare solar farm for financial help.

In January, they will launch a £3m fundraising bid inviting people to buy from £200 to £100,000 worth of shares and make up to £5,000 profit.

The villagers have to raise all that money, build the solar farm and get it generating before their pre-accreditation runs out on September 6.

Project manager Tim Crisp

Sustainable Charlbury ready to launch a share option for a solar farm in this field, from left, Juliette Barrell, Mark Luntley, Als Parker, Jody O'Reilly, Liz Reason, Matt Kopinski, Guy Parker and Tim Crisp



hoped increasingly dramatic weather in the UK and the world would help persuade people that climate change was happening and that renewable energy schemes could help stop irreversible change, especially after the Paris climate talks agreement.

The 55-year-old, of Charlbury, said: "We seriously hope people embrace the issue of climate change in much more engaged way."

He added: "You can make money out of our scheme even if you don't believe in climate change."

In November, the directors behind a £1.25m hydroelectric power plant scheme in Abingdon had to pull the plug on their proposals after costs began to spiral.

They were told that if they were not generating by September they would lose their feed-in tariff which could make the project unprofitable.

But the group behind a similar scheme at Sandford-on-Thames Oxford are ploughing on. The Sandford Hydro group is pre-accredited and have until September 2017 to get their scheme up and running.

Despite the fact that Sustainable Charlbury think they will need a minimum of 1,000 investors for their solar farm, they plan to persevere.

Mr Crisp, of Oxford's Low Carbon Hub, said: "This project can only go ahead if we meet the target."

"We will be building in June and July and connecting to the grid by the end of the year."

If it all works out as they hope, the group's solar farm on land owned by the Cornbury Estate will generate enough power – 4.56MW – to power Charlbury for the next 25 years.

Festive event raises money to aid causes

THIS year's Banbury Celebration of Christmas has raised more than £650 for local charities.

The event, which was held on December 5 at the town hall, helped support the Banbury branch of the Royal British Legion, the Women's Refuge

Both charities were given £250, with the extra £160 raised given to the mayor's charity fund.

Royal British Legion branch president Kieron Mallon said:

"The RBL provides financial, social and emotional support to members and veterans of the British Armed Forces, to their families and their dependents."

"The Banbury branch is particularly active within the local community and this contribution is very welcome."

Karen Diver, from the Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Service, said the money raised would help support them over the festive period.

She said: "We are here to provide a confidential, safe and secure environment for women and their children who are escaping from domestic abuse."

"This donation has made Christmas and the New Year more enjoyable for those who, through no fault of their own, find themselves sheltering at this refuge."

Town mayor Tony Mephram will share the remaining money between other causes when his term ends in May next year.

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THE HATEFUL EIGHT (18, 168 mins)
A Western drama with Samuel L Jackson, Kurt Russell, Jennifer Jason Leigh, Walton Goggins, Demian Bichir, Tim Roth, Michael Madsen, Bruce Dern, James Parks, Zoe Bell, Channing Tatum and Dana Gourrier. Director: Quentin Tarantino

WRITER-DIRECTOR Quentin Tarantino is no stranger to controversy and he has been gleefully provoking audiences since 1992 when he stormed the Sundance Film Festival with his incendiary debut feature, *Reservoir Dogs*.

His eighth film, action-packed western *The Hateful Eight*, has been making headlines for all the wrong reasons on the other side of the Atlantic: law-enforcement unions threatened a boycott in response to the filmmaker's comments about police brutality, some critics charged Tarantino with misogyny in their reviews, and selected screenings of a 70mm version of the film were blighted with technical problems, including out-of-focus images, improperly synced sound and failing projectors.

Cinema patrons took to social media to voice their displeasure.

As an ardent advocate of traditional filmmaking techniques, Tarantino shot his film with the widescreen format in mind. Very few cinemas in the UK and Ireland are equipped with old projectors. Only the Odeon Leicester Square in London will show the 70mm Ultra Panavision version of *The Hateful Eight* from this Friday.

It includes an overture composed by Ennio Morricone and a 12-minute intermission.

Technical gremlins aside, Tarantino's eighth film is a gritty period piece set shortly after the American Civil War, which is bookmarked into six blood-spattered chapters and follows bounty hunter John Ruth (Kurt Russell) as he escorts



Kurt Russell and Samuel L Jackson are among the stars of Quentin Tarantino's new film, *The Hateful Eight*

prisoner Daisy Domergue (Jennifer Jason Leigh) to Red Rock, where she will be tried and hanged for murder.

She is handcuffed to Ruth and occasionally feels his wrath, when she dares to shoot off her mouth.

As the bounty hunter and Daisy trek through the rural wilds of Wyoming, they are engulfed by a blizzard and seek refuge in a stagecoach lodge called Minnie's Haberdashery.

The owner, Minnie Mink (Dana Gourrier), is away visiting her mother, so Bob (Demian Bichir) is running the establishment in her absence.

Other lodgers include rival bounty hunter Major Marquis

Warren (Samuel L. Jackson), town hangman Oswaldo Mobray (Tim Roth), quiet and unassuming cowboy Joe Gage (Michael Madsen) and former Confederate General Sandy Smithers (Bruce Dern).

Town sheriff Chris Mannix (Walton Goggins) is also present, hoping to keep the peace. With a sizeable bounty on Daisy's head, trigger fingers become itchy and Ruth faces a battle of bullets and wits to cling on to his valuable prisoner.

No preview screenings were being made available to journalists prior to the film's UK release, so the *Banbury Cake* is unable to give a full review of the film this week.

Cake Bookworm

Recipes For Love & Murder by Sally Andrew, paperback by Canon-gate, £12.99 (ebook £1.49). Out January 21

THE colourful backdrop for this debut novel is South Africa's semi-desert region, Klein Karoo. Meet Tannie Maria, still bearing the psychological scars of her late husband's brutality. Although she lives alone, with just her chickens and local wildlife for company, she bakes cakes, milk tarts, rusks, jams and stews to dole out to friends and those who need them most. Everything changes when she becomes an agony aunt for the local newspaper and begins her unique brand of rescue-recipes; mouth-watering dishes tailored to solve the problem. But when she receives a cry for help from a battered wife who is found dead shortly afterwards, she becomes embroiled in a dangerous murder investigation.

Author Sally Andrew, who lives in a mudbrick house on a nature reserve and camps in the wilderness, was an environmental activist and it shines through in her passion for the land. Bravo for a funny, poignant celebration of life, love and food, which handily contains Tante Maria's delicious recipes at the back.

I'm Travelling Alone by Samuel Bjork, hardback by Doubleday, £12.99 (ebook £7.99). Out now
AS ANOTHER Nordic novel translated into English, this debut offering from Samuel Bjork has a lot to live up to. Inevitably it's going to be compared to the likes of Jo Nesbo and Stieg Larsson. The story centres on ex-detective Mia Kruger and veteran police investigator Holger Munch as they come together to solve one of the most terrifying cases of their careers. A young child is found

hanging from a tree, with an airline tag around her neck which reads 'I'm travelling alone'. She won't be the only one... The story is well written and the plot twists along nicely to keep the reader guessing, but it is all formulaic. It is very enjoyable and will keep the reader hooked.

And Yet... Essays by Christopher Hitchens, hardback by Atlantic Books, £20 (ebook £11.29). Out today
HITCHENS's death in 2011 robbed the world of one of its foremost critics of cant, tyranny and puritanism. The essays, articles and reviews here are previously uncollected. They are not his best work. Still, the penetrating eye, powerful mind and exonerating wit are on typically fine form. Nobody agrees with everything Hitchens wrote, not even Hitchens, but even off-par, he reminds us how diminished our cultural sphere is by his passing.

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CakeSport

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Mark Bell comes close to a fourth goal with this shot, which was blocked on the line by a defender
Picture: Damian Halliwell

Puritans boss calls for more

Ford unhappy with first-half effort in thrashing

MIKE Ford felt there was plenty of room for improvement despite seeing his Banbury United dish out an 8-1 thumping at home to Wantage Town. Mark Bell led the way with a hat-trick, substitute Leam Howards bagged a quickfire double and there were also goals for Zac McEachran, George Nash and Ricky Johnson. Aaron Ferris netted the away side's consolation in the Evo-Stik Southern League Division 1 South & West clash. Banbury moved to within one point of play-off places with victory in front of a

healthy crowd at the Spencer Stadium. But despite the result, manager Mike Ford was unhappy with aspects of his side's display. He said: "The supporters aren't stupid and they can see that some of my players were not up to it in the first half. "It was disappointing, but whenever I've asked a question of them they've always come up with an answer and the second half, apart from their goal, was just men against boys really." Banbury Utd: Harding, White, Welch-Hayes, Nash, Wise (Westbrook 65), Gunn, Bell, Stanbridge, Johnson, McEachran

(Howards 64), Browne (Kalakoutis 79). Subs not used: Blackstock, Martin. Attendance: 316.

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Division 1 South & West

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cinderford Tn	22	16	4	2	46	14	52
North Leigh	24	15	3	6	53	21	48
Supermarine	23	15	3	5	43	22	48
Tiverton Tn	25	13	8	4	43	27	47
Winchester C	22	14	4	4	57	27	46
Banbury Utd	24	12	9	3	56	26	45
Taunton Tn	22	13	6	3	41	19	45
Evesham Utd	23	10	7	6	40	25	37
Shortwood Utd	22	12	1	9	41	37	37
Bishops Cleeve	21	9	7	5	33	34	34
Larkhall Ath	25	8	7	10	42	39	31
Didcot Tn	23	9	4	10	42	41	31
Yate Tn	25	7	8	10	29	31	29
AFC Totton	24	9	2	13	43	47	29
Marlow	21	8	3	10	38	39	27
Mangotsfield	23	7	6	10	35	43	27
Slimbridge	23	6	7	10	24	30	25
Wimborne Tn	24	7	3	14	46	54	24
Bridgwater Tn	23	6	4	13	26	44	22
Wantage Tn	25	5	2	18	32	59	17
Burnham	25	4	4	17	25	54	16
Bashley	23	0	0	23	9	111	0

Phillips stars as Banbury ease through

SKIPPER Ed Phillips scored 22 points as Banbury stormed into the Midlands quarter-finals of the RFU Intermediate Cup with a commanding 52-0 win at Olney. Good work from Josh Deegan led to a penalty try and it was 14-0 in no time as Ian Isham crossed, following Joe Mills' fine solo run. Phillips successfully kicked the extras. Olney were rocking and Phillips reacted quickest to the ball popping out of a five-metre scrum to go over. Matt Goode then crossed and scrum half Phillips landed the kick to make it 26-0 at half-time. Bulls dominated and Mills breezed over, Phillips slotted the extras. It was then 45-0 when Isham scored his second try and Jimmy Manley got in on the act. Phillips converted the latter. And there was still time for the half-back to grab his second try, which he duly converted.

STARS with Claire Petulengro

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ARIES

Mar 21-Apr 19

You may not realise it, but you have gained a lot of respect from those around you with the way you have handled certain situations. What I love about you Aries is how you shine in the most stressful of times and help get the rest of us through it. From Tuesday you begin a new chapter and I know from your stars that it really is going to be the making of you. Ring now for a preview of what's to come.

0906 585 4360

LIBRA

Sep 23-Oct 22

You have been standing too close to a situation to see what was really going on but, as events from Sunday take your attention elsewhere, you get a chance to look from a new angle at what other's intentions may really have been. Positive change can begin from now. Just be willing to embrace it when it comes. Ring me to hear why jealousy must not be an option right now.

0906 585 4366

TAURUS

Apr 20-May 20

You may not be in charge of the changes taking place in the life of your close ones this week, but you will be able to shape them. Don't be afraid to find your voice and step up, as what is occurring is predicted to affect you as much as it will those around you. News of a birth or pregnancy brings surprise, but also helps you realise how quickly life and people move on. Ring now to reveal more.

0906 585 4361

SCORPIO

Oct 23-Nov 21

I know you have big dreams and I know that you can achieve them. Try to believe in yourself this week. Positive thinking is the first step to you making the most of your life. A new dream comes into sight via a chance meeting with a stranger who can change everything. Children bring good news and joy this weekend. Ring now to hear why I'm so excited about your future.

0906 585 4367

GEMINI

May 21-Jun 20

You start to feel more comfortable with the changes which have taken place since the New Year and you are no longer feeling that you are in a car you cannot steer. This empowered feeling helps you to see who is right for your life and who has been bringing you down. Try to give a younger person a second chance. By Friday you will see they are clearly sorry for their actions. Ring now for a clearer view.

0906 585 4362

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 22-Dec 21

You find your smile again today and you no longer worry about trying to please everyone else in your life, but you think about your needs and desires. Your element of fire could see you revealing a secret which is better left to others to let out. Think before you speak, especially on Thursday. Flirting comes natural this weekend and leads to interesting results. Ring now for a warning from Mars.

0906 585 4368

CANCER

Jun 21-Jul 22

Problems in the home have been getting on top of you, but you're doing a very good job of ignoring what and who is really responsible. Talking to all concerned by Wednesday can not only provide knowledge, but it can also provide solutions. Phone calls you make in the name of business help you achieve a crossover you should have made months ago. Ring now so we can talk love issues.

0906 585 4363

CAPRICORN

Dec 22-Jan 19

Your day to day life starts to become a lot easier and you find yourself enjoying what you do, rather than dreading the days ahead. Others are willing to share your load if you ask, so don't be afraid to say where you need support and help. From Tuesday, life is about new starts, no matter what has happened previously. Ring now to hear why you mustn't lead on those you don't want this month.

0906 585 4369

LEO

Jul 23-Aug 22

Try to give older people a little more time. They may be finding it hard to ask for what they want. Many of the signs have been feeling more tired than usual and this has resulted in us all feeling a little more selfish, but also a little more needy too. Fun flirtations take a turn for the serious from Tuesday when you may even surprise yourself with your words. Ring now for support and direction.

0906 585 4364

AQUARIUS

Jan 20-Feb 18

This week is full of opportunities waiting to be seized. Believe in you and others will too. Aquarius. You start to feel full of energy from Monday and you can face the issues you did such a good job of avoiding previously. A great week to decide which areas of your work you should focus on and further study is also a strong possibility. Ring now to hear whose behaviour is unacceptable.

0906 585 4370

VIRGO

Aug 23-Sep 22

You have been far too quick to judge those around you when you should be playing more of a waiting game to see what time will reveal. New offers in your career make your life a more interesting yet challenging place to be. Saturn and Pluto help you to work out what is possible longer term and you start to make plans for a brighter future. Ring now to hear about tomorrow today.

PISCES

Feb 19-Mar 20

Phone calls and contacts you receive this week all have very significant meanings behind them. For once, you can afford to read in-between the lines. News of new relationships helps you feel as you can back off from supporting what was a turbulent time for close ones. A more instinctive mind helps you see lies from truth. Ring now to hear how hidden talents offer new job prospects this year.

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- The Advertiser's artwork, film and all other property is held at the Advertiser's risk and should be insured by him against loss or damage from whatever cause. The Publisher reserves the right to destroy without notice all artwork, film and other property which has been in his custody for six months from the date of its last appearance, unless the Advertiser has given instructions to the contrary and has obtained the Publisher's written acknowledgement that the Publisher has received such instructions.
- (i) Every endeavour will be made to forward replies to box numbers to the Advertiser as soon as possible after receipt by the Publisher, but the Publisher accepts no liability in respect of any loss or damage alleged to have arisen through delay in forwarding or omitting to forward such replies (howsoever caused). The Advertiser authorises the Publisher to open any letter for examination and to destroy or return to its originator any communication which, in the opinion of the Publisher, should not be delivered to the Advertiser. Readers are advised not to enclose original references or stamped addressed envelopes with their replies.
- (ii) The Publisher reserves the right to disclose the name and address of Advertisers and/or agencies to the police, trading standards officials, or any other relevant authority and, where the Publisher in its sole discretion deems it reasonable, to other third parties.
- SETTLEMENT OF ACCOUNTS:**
 - Regular Advertisers holding an account number - all invoices must be paid within 30 days from the date of the invoice. Failure to comply with this request may result in credit facilities being withdrawn and advertising stopped. Any discounts negotiated are subject to payment within our monthly account terms.
 - Other Advertisers - All advertisements to the value of £100 require pre-payment by cheque, postal order, most major credit cards, Switch or cash at any of our Branch Offices.
 - The existence of a query on any individual invoice will not affect the due date of payment for the balance of the account.
- (i) The copyright for all purposes in all artwork, copy and other material which the Publisher or its employees have originated, contributed to or reworked shall vest in the Publisher.
- (ii) The Publisher is hereby authorised to record, reproduce, publish, distribute and broadcast (or to permit the same) all advertisements (including but not limited to text, artwork and photographs) and to include and make them available in any information service, electronic or otherwise.
- The placing of an order by an Advertiser constitutes an assurance that all necessary authority and permission has been secured in respect of the use in the advertisement(s) of pictorial representations of (or purporting to be of) living persons, and of references to the works attributed to living persons.
- Advertisement orders issued by an advertising agency as a principal must be on the agency's official form. When copy instructions not constituting an official order are issued, they shall be clearly marked 'Copy instructions - not an order'.
- Users of the computerised system will be invited to transmit their orders via ISDN, must before transmission obtain a unique reference number from the Publisher in order that their artwork can be identified upon receipt. The Publisher will not be responsible for errors occasioned by the subsequent receipt of artwork without any such identification.
- Mail Order and One Day Sale Advertisements. These types of advertisements are accepted at the sole discretion of the Advertisement Manager or his/her deputies. All such advertisements must be pre-paid and copy submitted at least 7 working days before publication. The Publisher reserves the right to refuse to publish any such advertisement containing copy which we find not acceptable and will not be responsible for any costs incurred by the Advertiser or his Agents, either before or after such refusal.
- SEX DISCRIMINATION ACT.**

No advertisement which indicates or can reasonably be understood as indicating an intention to discriminate on the grounds of sex (e.g. by inviting invitations from only male or only females) may be accepted unless exempted from the requirements of the Sex Discrimination Act. A statement must be made at the time the advertisement is placed, saying which of the exceptions in the Act is considered to apply.
- RACE RELATIONS ACT.**

The Publisher reserves the right not to accept recruitment advertisements which request a photograph or hints of discrimination on racial grounds in support of an application.
- TRADE DESCRIPTIONS ACT**

All advertisements will be accepted only on the express condition that the Advertiser warrants that the advertisement does not in any way contravene the provisions of the Trade Descriptions Act 1968.
- Business Opportunities Advertisements** are accepted at the sole discretion of the Advertisement Manager or his/her deputies and will appear in the Classified section under the appropriate heading. Readers are recommended to take professional advice before entering into any obligations.
- Dating Agencies and advertisements for companions are accepted at the sole discretion of the Advertisement Manager or his/her deputies and will appear in the Classified section under the appropriate heading. Readers are requested to consider very carefully and make the fullest enquiries before giving any personal details.
- All orders from Advertising Agencies are governed by the standard conditions agreed between the Newspaper Society and the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising. The Director's personal guarantee given to the Newspaper Society at the time of recognition is deemed to be part of these conditions of acceptance.
- All gross advertising rates (except Classified Lineage) are subject to a 0.1 per cent Advertising Standards Board of Finance surcharge, payable by Advertisers to help finance the self regulatory control system administered by the Advertising Standards Authority.
- If an Advertiser in receipt of series or volume discount cancels before fulfilling the terms for the discount, the Publisher reserves the right to make a surcharge up to the full published rates for the type of advertisement.
- The placing of an order for the insertion of an advertisement shall amount to an acceptance of the above conditions and any conditions stipulated on an Advertiser's order form or elsewhere shall be void insofar as they are in conflict with them.

Exchange and Mart

www.exchangeandmart.co.uk

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Exchange and Mart is a well known and trusted advertising brand, published since 1868. We are currently embarking on an exciting and challenging new phase of development and growth. As a member of our dedicated and friendly team of Field Sales Executives based in the Midlands you will have the opportunity to help us grow and share in our success.

The job involves selling online advertising to motor dealers and car supermarkets through face to face visits. Your personal qualities will include energy and enthusiasm, a self starter, excellent communication skills, the confidence to deliver compelling presentations and the ability to close deals.

To be considered for the role you will need to convince us that you have:

- ✓ **Drive, ambition and commitment**
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- ✓ **Proven track record in advertising sales (or similar)**
- ✓ **Ability to achieve challenging targets**
- ✓ **Polished telephone manner**
- ✓ **Working knowledge of internet advertising**
- ✓ **Previous experience selling online advertising an advantage**
- ✓ **Experience in business to business field sales**

In return we offer a great opportunity to develop your career in a fast paced and lively business, a competitive basic salary with excellent commission, the usual company benefits, initial and ongoing training.

Got what it takes? ... Apply today!

Email your CV with covering letter to Jo Forsyth: recruitment@exchangeandmart.co.uk

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In brief

- Williams Martini Racing driver Felipe Massa will lead a line-up of famous Williams faces at the Autosport International show (January 14-17) at the Birmingham NEC. Also there will be the deputy team principal, Claire Williams, and chief technical officer Pat Symonds, giving insight into the world of Formula One. The cars will be on display outside the Williams Martini Racing motorhome. Also at the show will be Craig Wilson, managing director of Williams Advanced Engineering, which transfers Formula One know-how to other sectors and has completed high-profile projects such as the Jaguar C-X75 from *Spectre*.
- Volkswagen is gearing up for a busy start to 2016 with a raft of trim upgrades for its Polo, Golf, and Passat ranges. Leading the charge is the Polo Match, replacing the SE trim in three- and five-door styles and adding more than £900-worth of extra equipment. Among new standard features are cruise control, parking sensors, fog lights and tinted rear windows.

CakeMotoring

banburycake.co.uk/cars

Elegant DS 4 sits in the right place

Auto facts

Model: DS 4 Crossback Blue HDi 120
Price: £23,495
Insurance group: 24 (1-50)
Fuel consumption (combined): 72.4mpg
Top speed: 117mph
Length: 428.4cm/168.7in
Width: 181cm/71.3in
Luggage capacity: 13.6 cu ft
Fuel tank capacity: 13.2 gallons/60 litres
CO2 emissions: 103 g/km
Warranty: Three years/60,000 miles

By David Duffy
 david.duffy@nqo.com

ANYONE with a family can tell you that there is always a risk that the child in the middle can be in danger of missing out on the attention.

The first causes great excitement, the last for similar reasons, but the middle one can be a little overlooked. It can be just the same with cars.

The Mini-rivalling DS 3 proved an instant hit in 2010.

At the other end of the spectrum, the sumptuous DS 5 sits comfortably at the top of the European range, but what of the one in the middle? DS Automobiles, which was spun out of Citroën in June last year, was founded with the aim of reviving the tradition of high-end French cars inspired by the distinctive DS model launched in 1955.

And if the DS 4 and Crossback are anything to go by, it is in with a real chance. The DS 4 is marketed as an elegant hatchback and its performance on the road really delivers.

Priced from £19,495, the DS 4 has personalisation options, new trim levels and a choice of six Euro 6-compliant engines.

I tried the 150 horsepower turbodiesel version in Prestige trim



It is middle of the range, but the Crossback proves no mediocre option

and found the six-speed manual model quick, comfortable, punchy and settled.

The 180 horsepower version, with an automatic gearbox, will set you back several thousand pounds more, and while quicker, it seemed a little less rounded package. But the eye-opener came in the Crossback, with the less powerful, but remarkably economical, 120 horsepower turbo diesel engine.

Priced from £21,745, it is where the DS 4 gets seriously interesting. The car has distinctive looks thanks to a 30mm increased ride height, black exterior mirrors

and spoiler, large black wheels, bold wheelarch trims and grey roof bars.

The DS 4 has a two-tone offering, with a choice of nine body colours and four for the roof and rear spoiler, the door mirrors and hub caps.

Equally distinctive are headlamps that combine three LED modules with a xenon beam and LED scrolling indicators.

Technology is packed in, with a seven-inch touch screen, giving easy access to all vehicle functions.

Not too big, not too small, the DS 4 might be just right.

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2007 57	FORD FOCUS 1.6 STYLE TDCI DIESEL. Metallic pale Blue. 5 Doors. Local car. 2 owners. Excellent economy from this very popular diesel car. Lovely condition and drives very well. Alloys. Aircon. Radio/CD. Remote central locking. Electric windows and mirrors. Sold with a full service a new MOT and a new cambelt kit. HPI clear.....	£2,995
2007 07	PEUGEOT 2061.4 LOOK. Metallic dark blue. 3 Door. Local car. 2 owners. Approximately only 53000 recorded miles. 1400cc. PAS. Remote central locking. Radio/CD. Electric windows. Aircon. Very smart economical and versatile small car. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt kit. HPI Clear.....	£2,495
2005 05	NISSAN MICRA 1.2S. Metallic blue. 5 Door hatchback. 2 owners. Local car. PAS. Electric windows. Remote central locking. CD/Player. Etc. Very nice condition. Drives very well. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt. HPI clear.....	£2,350
2002 51	FORD MONDEO ZETEC 2.0 TDCI. 5 door hatchback. Metallic Blue. Local car in very nice condition throughout. PAS. Alloys. Aircon Remote central locking. Electric windows and door mirrors. Radio/CD. Very nice example of this popular large diesel car. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt kit. HPI Clear.....	£1,995
2005 05	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0 LIFE. Silver. 3 Door. Local car. Very low recorded mileage of approximately 43400. Ideal 1st car, or runaround. Lovely condition. Sold with a new MOT, a full service and a new cambelt. HPI clear.....	£1,795
2001 51	NISSAN MICRA 1.0 VIBE. 5 doors. Metallic Blue. PAS. Radio/CD. Local car. Very tidy throughout. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt. HPI Clear.....	£1,050
2005 54	ALFA ROMEO 156 JTS VELOCE. 2.0 Petrol. Silver. Black leather interior. PAS. Remote central locking. Aircon. Electric windows. Alloys. Etc. Local car. HPI Clear.....	Arriving soon
2007 57	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE. 1.6 cc. Metallic Blue. Local car.....	Arriving soon

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Historic Rally Car Register Event's focus on racing controversy

CONTROVERSY created by the Mini on the 1966 Monte Carlo Rally will be a focus of the HRCR (Historic Rally Car Register) open day at the British Motor Museum at Gaydon on January 16.

The open day will also celebrate the Mini's continued success and popularity in historic rallying.

Following wins by the Mini in both 1964 and 1965, 1966 tipped the organisers over the edge when Timo Mäkinen led Rauno Aaltonen and Paddy Hopkirk to a dominant BMC Mini one, two, three finish.

However, keen to see a result for Citroën on its home ground, the Minis were disqualified for having single filament bulbs in their

standard headlamps instead of double-filament dipping bulbs, fitted to series production Minis. The disqualifications also extended to other British entries including Roger Clark in a Lotus Cortina in fourth and Rosemary Smith in a Hillman Imp in sixth.

Amid the uproar the fifth-placed Citroën ID of Pauli Toivonen was elevated to first position. This car also used the single filament bulbs, but was allowed to win as these were fitted as standard on some production models.

Toivonen refused to accept the cup. The status quo was reinstated in 1967, when Rauno Aaltonen and Henry Lidden won in a Mini.

Fifty years on and the success of the classic Mini continues to make the headlines. After nine tightly-fought rounds, the 2015 HRCR Clubmans Historic Road Rally Championship has been won by Steve Entwistle in his orange Mini.

HRCR chairman Paul Loveridge said: "The Mini makes an ideal car to use in all forms of historic rallying and with the support of companies like Mini Sport, cars can be both affordable to develop and maintain."

Visitors can see the cars and meet organisers covering every facet of historic rallying. Entry is free and it runs from 10am to 4pm. To find out more see hrcr.co.uk.

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